THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) The Disinvestment Commission in its 6th report had recommended that Electronics Trade and Technology Development Corporation Limited should discontinue all its operations forthwith. Government is yet to take a view in the matter.

(c) Does not arise.

Checking Software Piracy and Imported Softwares

4177. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to check software piracy in the country and on imported softwares; and

(b) the achievements made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) Government has taken following steps to check software piracy :

— In India, Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) of Software is covered under the Copyright law, violation of which attracts both fine and imprisonment.

— To create awareness, Government has been supporting Antipiracy campaign through NASSCOM and also issued instructions to various Government departments to make use of only the legal copy of the software.

— Custom duty on Software has been made zero.

— Government has introduced comprehensive Information Technology Bill in the Parliament. This Bill is expected to take care of various aspects relating to software piracy.

— Government (MHRD) has also set up a Copyright Enforcement Advisory Council.

— Organisation of seminars/workshops to create greater awareness about Copyright law among the enforcement personnel and general public.

— Encouraging setting up of collective administrative societies.

— Creation of separate cells in police headquarters.

(b) As a result of the above measures, there is an increasing awareness amongst computer software developers and users and software piracy rate in the country has dropped (NASSCOM's report).

Training for Hindi Typing and Stenography in Ministry of Information Technology

†4178. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : Will the MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of typists and stenographers under his Ministry and Subordinate Offices who have not taken training in Hindi typing and Hindi stenography ;

(b) the reasons for not giving them such training so far; and

(c) by when it is planned to give them such training?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) to (c) 151 Lower Division Clerks and 113 stenographers are yet to be trained in Hindi Typing and Hindi Stenography.

The employees who had earlier been trained have been either promoted to higher posts or have gone elsewhere.

Various courses are being conducted to train the employees in Hindi Typing/Stenography and computers. Training is also being imparted through correspondence by the 'Central Hindi Training Institution' under Department of Official language. It is expected that of all the remaining employees (particularly LDCs/UDCs/Stenos) would be trained in Hindi typing and Hindi Stenography in the next two years.

Usage of Hindi Typewriters in the Ministry of Information Technology

†4179 . SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : Will the MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the offices under his Ministry which dont's have a single Hindi typewriters so far;

(b) the reasons for not purchasing the Hindi typewriter there so far, and the officers responsible for such kind of negligence; and

(c) the action taken to ensure the compliance of targets fixed for the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.